

NEW CLAIMS

Sub C1

14. A method of processing a scheduled transaction on an online network, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a user with a terminal having a display, a programmed processor for displaying a scheduled transaction request having data fields on the display, and a memory for storing identity information of the user;

b) manually entering user data, including an event date, in human-readable form in at least one of the data fields on the display by having the user operate a user interface on the terminal;

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c) automatically entering reader data in human-readable form in at least another of the data fields on the display by capturing the reader data encoded in machine-readable indicia scanned and read by an electro-optical reader provided on the terminal;

d) verifying the user data and the reader data entered in the respective data fields by visual inspection by the user to obtain verified data;

e) submitting the verified data and the identity information by wireless transmission to a programmed server on the network;

f) searching databases on the network for potential suppliers of the scheduled transaction by the event date by operation of the server;

g) displaying the potential suppliers on the display of the terminal for selection by the user;

h) placing an order for the scheduled transaction after selection of at least one of the suppliers by the user; and

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i) delivering the scheduled transaction by the event date.

15. The method of claim 14, and the step of configuring the terminal to be a hand-held, portable device.

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16. The method of claim 14, wherein the hand-held device is a personal digital assistant configured to have a generally parallelepiped shape, and wherein the display is configured as a generally rectangular screen on a front wall of the assistant and facing the user in operation.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of manually entering user data is performed by also entering at least one reminder date that predates the event date.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of manually entering user data is performed by also entering an identity of a recipient, other than the user, to which the scheduled transaction is to be delivered.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of automatically entering reader data is performed by scanning a coded symbol indicative of at least one of a product, a service, a product category and a service category.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the searching step is performed prior to the event date.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the displaying step is transmitted from the server by wireless transmission to the terminal.

22. The method of claim 14, wherein the displaying step includes the step of advising the user how much time remains before the event date is reached.

23. The method of claim 14, and the step of confirming the order by displaying a confirmation on the display of the terminal.